HBT News

Kopin completes first phase of HBT production expansion

KOPIN Corp (Taunton, MA, USA) has completed the initial stage of a US$15 million expansion of its HBT fab that will quadruple its production capacity.

The company has successfully brought on-line the first of six new MOCVD production system. It has taken delivery of the second and third systems, which are currently being installed. The company expects to take delivery of the fourth and fifth production systems in the third quarter of this year, while the remaining machine is slated to arrive during the first quarter of 2000. The company also has an option for three more machines in 2000.

The expansion will boost Kopin's annual capacity to more than 150 000 4" wafers. Two of the six machines are designed to produce either 4" or 6" wafers and, accordingly, Kopin will also have the annual capability to produce 30 000 6" wafers.

"Kopin's investment to vastly increase its capacity is fuelled by the explosive demand for digital GSM, TDMA and CDMA handsets," says Dr John C.C. Fan, president and CEO.

Along with the six additional growth systems, Kopin is undertaking a major expansion of its clean room, and installing additional automated characterization tools and sophisticated manufacturing tracking systems. Employment at its Taunton facility is expected to reach more than 100 by the beginning of next year.

In addition to wireless handsets, Kopin's transistors are used to produce high-speed circuits for broadband OC-48/OC 192 SONET systems and in high-speed test instrumentation.

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Education News

Foundation to promote awareness

AN organization to promote awareness of compound semiconductors in the wider community is being established in the USA.

The non-profit Compound Semiconductor Foundation (CSF), in the early stages of development, plans to underwrite a variety of educational projects on behalf of the industry. Anticipated projects include internet library sites, a series of biographical profiles of key technologists and companies, an awards programme, and scholarships.

The CSF will reside virtually over the internet, with its members and benefactors expected to come primarily from senior managers or retired executives of US-based compound semiconductor companies.

The primary catalyst for the foundation is Jo Ann McDonald, president of The Legacy Co, who will serve as CSF's founding executive director. McDonald is a veteran of both the compound semiconductor sector and the educational non-profit foundation environment. The creation of such a body has long been her professional goal and will initially draw on resources she has created at the web site CompoundSemiconductor.com.

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CdTe News

Galtech accelerates CdTe efforts

GALTECH Semiconductor Materials Corp (Provo, UT, USA) is accelerating its efforts to commercialize large area single crystal CdTe.

Having moved to a new facility earlier this year, the company has just submitted a US Securities and Exchange Commission form 10-SB filing that, once approved, will enhance its ability to raise finance. "This development marks the next step in bringing Galtech's proprietary technology into commercial reality," says president and CEO, William F. Pratt.

Galtech has also completed a proof of concept itinerary and the construction of the semiconductor growth facility that will be used for continued testing, refinement and future production of CdTe. The material has wide potential uses in solar cell arrays, lasers, infrared detectors and other devices.

The company anticipates expanding its research to other II-VI materials in the future. While Galtech's main focus is CdTe, it is also involved with other technologies including unique electrical motor/generator technology and a fungal removal process for foodstuffs.

Galtech Semiconductor; URL: www.galtech-corp.com